

HAPPY FALL



The Coleman Connection

Agents

Bob Richins - Manager

Dottie Nigrelli
Sue Christy
Robin Knisley
Tom Nigrelli

Stu Weier
Joan McCormick
Jane Davis
Diane Nardone

Sally Owen
Tamsy Markham
Desa Buffum
Rob Richins

A Note From Bob

As seen by the last page of our newsletter, sales in '07 have been very good. Weekapaug has shown more life in the past 3 years. Interest in Watch Hill continues strong. I say we are insulated and have a unique and very special market. These sales only reflect the shoreline area. However, our great new crew from Westerly has been very successful and productive as evidenced by the Butterfly Estates and sales in general. The success of selling your home really comes down to pricing it right. We all work together and are anxious to provide the best service possible.

The best news in October is seeing Sue Christy back in the fold. Her illness seemed unending but now she is on the recovery road and greatly appreciates all the concerns and carings expressed by so many of you.

Meanwhile, many changes seem on the cusp in Watch Hill. Hopefully, the telephone poles and wires will become history. A Park Committee has been formed and great ideas are being formulated aimed at beautification and practicality. The pounding noise has ended at the Ocean House and the leveling of land affords us many spectacular views. Their newsletters have been very informative. The Merry Go Round fund raiser was most successful and the continual beautification will be ongoing. More changes could be taking place over the winter and we will continue to keep you updated.

I hope you all enjoyed a great summer and have a healthy and eventful winter.



Our New Logo!

Goings on About Town and Beyond

Through Oct. 28th **ALL THE KINGS MEN** Trinity Repertory Co. Providence, RI 351-4242

Oct 11-13, 18-20 7:30 **STUFF HAPPENS** by: David Hare
URI Theater 7:30 Oct 14 & 21 3:00 401-874-5843

Oct 12-Nov 18 **NUNSENSE II - THE MUSICAL** 8:00 pm The Granite Theater Westerly 596-2341

Oct 12-Nov 12 Jillian Barber Ceramic and Photography Exhibit Sun Up Gallery 95 Watch Hill Rd.

www.sunupgallery.com

Oct 13-14 Bowen's Warf Seafood Festival in Newport 401-849-2120

Oct 17 5th Annual Athena Awards Banquet 6pm Venice Restaurant

Oct 18-21 **City of Angels** Stuart Theater, 77 Waterman St., Providence, 401-863-2838

Oct 19-21 Festival Ballet Providence presents **VIKTOR PLOTNKOV'S CINDERELLA** Veterans Memorial Auditorium Arts and Cultural Center 401-353-1129

Oct 20 Runaway Bunny Homecoming Party in Wilcox Park sponsored by Westerly Library

Oct 25 Annual Beer Tasting Stonington Meadows 401-596-7761

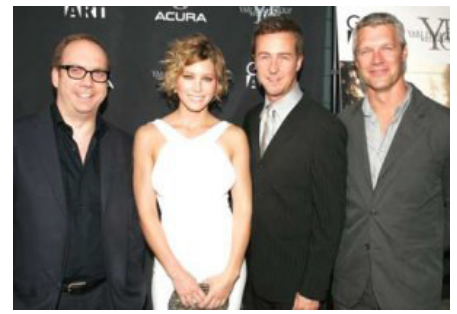
Oct 31 Trick or Treat Parade 4:30 Downtown Westerly

Nov 13 Westerly Library book discussion

MAYFLOWER by: Nathaniel Philbrick



Off to the races with Linda Martine and Bill Weil



Is it all Just an ILLUSION?

Last summer after all the prizes had been awarded, the crowd milled around the Misquamicut Club porch saying their goodbyes as the summer of '06 was ending. While Mothers watched their children run around the practice green, I had a quick conversation with Diana Kellogg as she was being pulled in five directions by her two children. "I loved the Illusionist!" I said. Diana replied, "Yes, Neil is off in London at the premier, and here I am...." Something seemed wrong with that picture. Little did anyone realize, at the time, that the *The Illusionist*, written and directed by Diana's husband Neil Burger, would be up for an Academy Award and be a block buster hit in 2006.

As a child, Neil never had ambitions to be a movie director or writer. He actually wanted to be in the circus or have one of his own. He had a vivid imagination and would often write creative stories. He explains, "I liked the idea of creating this whole, strange world, on stage and off, that was some how meaningful, had a narrative, and was like a parallel universe to our own. Making films turns out to be quite like that."

After graduating from Yale with a degree in the fine arts, Neil switched his focus from painting to experimental film making and then worked with MTV promoting reading with a series of "one minute movies." They were like music videos but showcased language and literature. He continued to direct commercials and music videos for eight years, giving him the knowledge and confidence to venture into movies.

Neil's first movie, *Interview with an Assassin*, a documentary style thriller compared to The Blair Witch Project with its cinematography, won an award at The Sundance Film Festival. He was then inspired by the Pulitzer Prize winning short story "Eisenheim the Illusionist," written by Steven Millhouser, to write the screen play for *The Illusionist*. Understanding it would be an expensive proposition, given the 1900's time period, Neil knew this could make a great movie. He completed the screen play and set out to find actors he thought fit the characters. "Edward Norton is very intelligent, passionate about his work, and truly a bit of a mystery, just like Eisenheim, the character he plays." Jessica Biel, Rufus Sewel, and Paul Giamatti round out the cast to make the magical dreamlike effect to the movie seem real.

Neil was raised to be honest and truthful, and these values are of utmost importance to him. Through *The Illusionist*, Neil challenges the audience to *see* the truth. Set in the 1900's in Vienna, the audience is introduced to a young Eisenheim, who is inspired to master magic after meeting an old magician and watching him vanish before his eyes. Eisenheim has a Romeo and Juliet relationship with Sophie, who he meets up with again years later at a time when she is the mistress of Crown Prince Leopold who is in part using her to gain more political power. Eisenheim reveals Leopold's true colors through his tricks and consummates his relationship with Sophie.

The central mystery in the film is whether Leopold, in his jealous rage, actually slays Sophie, or is it the grandest illusion of all! Neil explains the theme of the movie through his eyes, "...the movie is about perception, what we take on faith, choose to believe or not to believe. How we see the world and how we literally 'see.' Through that lens, I'm interested in examining truth and illusion, art and reality, life and death. Its all about how we choose to operate in a world where we can never exactly or accurately draw the line between any of them."

Neil is in the process of editing his next endeavor, which he also wrote and directed, *The Lucky Ones*. Rachel McAdams, Tim Robbins, and Michael Pena star in this drama about three American servicemen on leave and taking a road trip across the county. "Its not so much about any war as it is about them seeing America. It's funny and heart breaking- bittersweet." We should look for this next piece in the theaters this winter. It is sure to be another outstanding work of art.

Summer Rentals

The Watch Hill Coleman office had another record breaking rental season with 90 rentals in Weekapaug and Watch Hill combined. Our rentals range from 2 bedrooms 4,000 a month to 11 bedrooms and \$ 65,000 a month. These homes range in comfort and design as they do in price. As with real estate in general, the price corresponds to the location.

We have some suggestions to help the rentals go smoothly:

- If the owners have a regular cleaning person or service they use, we would like them to leave that name and number for the renters to use. We can then inform them of what they can expect to pay. Renters can set up times when they arrive, with that person, to clean the home during their stay and upon departure.
- If the owners do not have a particular cleaning service, you can notify us ahead of time, and we can recommend a few services to you. It might be to your advantage to meet with and discuss the cleaning of your home and the cost. This way all expectations can be met and hopefully there will be less confusion.
- Please look for a new home information sheet in the mail. It would be a great help to fill this out again, if you have not already done so recently, so we can update our files. Current information with regard to care takers and house hold equipment, trash collection days, etc. can save us calling you with questions.
- We will also be asking to take new photographs when convenient.
- As always, we request the renters come see the home before renting. And we remind them to make their payments on time. Often this helps the owners with the taxes.

We try to make these easy transactions, but sometimes the unexpected occurs and we apologize when it does. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any other issues we should address. Or if you would like us to help you rent your home next summer.



YOUR ASSESSMENT

? HOW DID THEY ARRIVE AT THAT NUMBER ?

The Town of Westerly, like all towns in Rhode Island, is required to perform a revaluation every three years. In years 2003 and 2006, a statistical update was done, with a full revaluation mandated for 2009.

In the three years prior to each revaluation, the office of the Assessor monitors daily sales activity in order to gauge the pace and trend of the real estate market. In the final year leading up to the revaluation, sales verification forms are mailed to buyers of real estate in order for the Assessor's Office to get further insight into the condition of a sale property and the dynamics of the transaction.

Outliers, or sales that fall outside of the typical range of value, are given limited consideration, such as a premium for a unique property or a foreclosure. No single sale is given sole consideration in estimating market value, however it is critical for revaluation company and the Office of the Assessor to recognize market trends and assess property accordingly.

A revaluation is a systematic appraisal of groups of properties as of a date of assessment. Appraisal principles and approaches are used in mass appraisal as in standard appraisal. Mass appraisal requires a thorough market analysis of varying property types. Mass appraisal models are constructed for quality control, and ratio studies are established in order to track consistency from one revaluation to the next.

Courtesy of David Thompson
Senior Appraiser
Office of the Tax Assessor
Town of Westerly

Ahoy Sailors!

Local sailors in the news! Watch Stonington, CT resident and former Watch Hill Yacht Club instructor, Clay Burkhalter as he begins the next leg of his solo transatlantic sailboat race aboard Acadia, his Rodney Johnstone prototype designed especially for the MiniTransat. After a 12 day layover on Madeira Island, Burkhalter and the other 88 boats in the **2007 MiniTransat** are slated to begin their 3200 mile race to Salvador De Bahia, Brazil on Saturday, October 6. Burkhalter is the only American in this race. Root him on and watch his progress at the race data center at www.TeamAcadia.org.

JBoat, *Sweet Lorraine*, Marc Hansen's J145 impressively won the PHRF and IRC overall in the **Around Long Island Race** sweeping 5 awards. Local Weekapaug/ Watch Hill sailors, Jim Buffum (driver/trimmer), Morgan Buffum (age 12, trimmer) and HL DeVore navigator/watch captain) were amongst the crew, which included Kerry Klinger, Greg Davis, Rick Lyall, John Fallon, Dan Fallon, and skipper/owner, Marc Hansen. For more information view, www.alir.org website or the Larchmont Yacht Club site.

Fair winds and smooth sailing to all.

*Are you ready to downsize?
Come visit us at
Butterfly Estates*



**BUTTERFLY DRIVE
(OFF EAST AVENUE)
WESTERLY, RI**

Enjoy the privacy of a single family home with the convenience of condominium living attractively situated on a quiet cul-de-sac.

Two design choices:

1 level plan, 1800 sq. ft. \$495,000
2 level plan, 2737 sq. ft. \$538,000

Model open
Saturdays and Sundays or call for a private showing.

Dottie Nigrelli - (401) 258-7684
Jane Davis - (401) 248-3275
Diane Nardone - (401) 741-9068
Tom Nigrelli - (401) 742-2967

Weekapaug Inn Restoration Plans Moving Forward

After a year of hearings before various boards, the Town of Westerly has granted final approval of plans to renovate the Weekapaug Inn.

The Weekapaug Inn project has, to date, received the unanimous support of the town council, the planning board and the zoning board at each step of the permitting process. Named to the National Register of Historic Places, the Weekapaug Inn seeks to blend a historic renovation plan with the stringent guidelines of the US Green Building Council.

At this stage, the Weekapaug project team and owners of the Inn, Jim and DeeDee Buffum, and Chuck Royce, continue to work with the RI Coastal Resources Management Council to finalize the permitting process and layout the timeline for construction. The plans call for a top-to-bottom restoration of the Inn and the building of five free standing cottages. Owners of the cottages will be able to take advantage of all of the Inn's amenities including but not limited to dining privileges, concierge services, spa facilities, and the beauty of this scenic location.

The Weekapaug Inn will be closed during the 2008 season for renovations and plans to reopen for the 2009 season. Watch for sales and booking information in the coming weeks. View the Inn website online at www.WeekapaugInn.com.

HOMES FOR SALE



**1 Whales View Drive
\$1,125,000**



**5 Ice Pond Road
\$1,150,000**



**5 Upland Road
\$2,700,000**



**18 Shore Road
\$750,000**



**41 Avondale Road
\$2,850,000**



**479 Atlantic Avenue
\$1,950,000**



**16 Waters Edge Rd
\$4,400,000**